

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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“LIFE IN THE VALLEY”

Mark 9:14-29

In **verses 1-13** of this chapter Jesus had taken his inner circle of three disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountaintop and He was transfigured before them. We discovered that being transfigured means that Jesus became on the outside what he was on the inside. For a brief moment the veil of His flesh was put aside, and the disciples were able to see the glory of his deity. The disciples saw Moses and Elijah and listened as they talked with Jesus about his impending death on the Cross. They even heard the voice of God the Father as He said, “*This is my beloved Son, Hear Him.*” The disciples must have been almost beside themselves with excitement as they came down the mountain. They certainly did not understand everything that had happened to them, but they were no doubt full of joy.

Suddenly the disciples find themselves in the real world. **Verses 14-15** describe the situation, “*And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. (15) Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him.*” When the people saw Jesus, the text tells us that they were “greatly amazed.” When Jesus arrives on the scene, He asks for an explanation in **verses 16-18**. In some way this boy has become a victim of “demon possession.” When we are told that the evil spirit “**teareth or throws him down (NKJV)**” (**v. 18**) the idea is to take hold of him and take possession of him.

As we come down into the valley with Jesus, I want you to notice five factors and lessons we discover in the valley.

First we learn . . .

I. It Is In The Valley That We Discover The Crowds Of Hurting People Who Need Help. (9:14-19)

After you have had a mountaintop experience with God, you tend to think that things are going to go smoothly and when you arrive in the valley literally “all Hell breaks loose.” That is the standard patterns so don’t be surprised. **So be ready, because whenever God opens the windows of Heaven to bless you, you can be certain that**

Satan will open the doors of Hell to blast you! Just as we see happened to Jesus at His baptism and then His temptation in the wilderness by the devil.

II. It Is In The Valley That You Find Out Whether You Have Anything To Offer A Hurting World. (9:18b-19)

Now notice -

- ♦ The Disciples – “Could not.” (**v. 18**)
- ♦ Jesus said, “Bring him unto me!” (**v. 19**)

III. It Is In The Valley That You Discover What Is Necessary To Help A Hurting World. (9:21-24)

- ♦ The Man wants Help with His Problem - (**v. 22b**)

“...But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

- ♦ Jesus wants to cultivate his Faith (**v. 23**)

Mark has already told us of two other parents that Jesus has helped by healing their children (Jairus daughter in **5:41-42** and the Syro Phoenician woman daughter who had a demon spirit in **7:29-30**).

IV. It Is In The Valley That You Discover That It Only Jesus That Can Help A Hurting World. (9:25-27)

Satan does not give up without a fight.

I believe that the evil spirit attempted to kill the boy right in front of the Creator. But Jesus commands the demon to leave the boy and to never return.

Lastly we learn . . .

V. It Is In The Valley That You Discover That It Requires Dependence On the Lord To Help A Hurting World. (9:28-29)

On the mountaintop there the presence of a radiant Savior; in the valley there are messed up people who are crying out for help. On the mountaintop is worship; in the valley there is work. On the mountaintop there is power and purpose; in the valley there is frustration and failure. Everyone wants to stay on the mountaintop; because in the valley there are demons, disease and even death. But remember that life is lived in the valleys not on the Mountain Tops.